



ALL CHILDREN ACHIEVE COMMITTEE

Meeting Report April 8, 2004

PRESENT: Chair Ken Yeager, Vice Mayor Pat Dando, Councilmember Terry Gregory

ABSENT: Vice-Chair Judy Chirco (excused)

STAFF: Jim Holgersson, Barbara Jordan, Avo Makdessian, Sara Hensley, Maria Hurtado, Angel Rios, Nora Pimentel, Suzanne Wolfe, Dave Peyton, Joan Carrico, Jane Light, Cornelia van Aken, Sharon Landers, Jim Schutz, Lt. Santiago Trejo, Lt. Carlos Miranda, Christina Gilmore, Megan Doyle, Trang Nguyen, Diana Miller, Judy Glickman, Jo Coffaro

The meeting was convened at 1:38 p.m. Items b, c and d were heard as one report.

a. Civic Center Childcare Update (Redevelopment Agency) [Deferred from March 11, 2004]

Sharon Landers, Assistant Executive Director of the Redevelopment Agency, gave a brief overview of the report, and introduced Angel Rios, PRNS, who gave the programmatic account of the report, and Jim Schutz, RDA, who presented the budget and funding side of the discussion.

Angel Rios stated that the issue of providing child care at the new Civic Center has a long history. He stated that direction from the Mayor and Council through the Education, Neighborhoods and Youth Services Committee, the predecessor to the All Children Achieve Committee, to look at creating more spaces in the downtown area and how to meet the child care of City employees when the new City Hall opens. Staff then set out to create a downtown child care strategy and came up with a matrix of child care providers within a five to six mile radius around the new Civic Center, especially those who are interested in expanding their services. Staff also used information collected from a survey of City employees back in 1999 as to their child care needs.

Due to the downturn in the economy, some of the child care providers listed in the matrix have decided not to expand. Angel stated that there has been no commitment made by the

City to any of the providers listed, except for two: San José Day Nursery, whose contract the Council just approved, and Estrella Family Services, with whom the City is going through a negotiation process.

Chair Yeager asked if staff foresee any problems with Estrella. Angel responded that they are now in the process of looking at the Agency requirements regarding the use of funds. Senior Deputy City Attorney Barbara Jordan mentioned that one of the issues was Estrella has a lease with a school district that is only for a five year term with 3 five-year options, which makes it not possible for Agency funding to go directly to Estrella. The City is trying to find a way to get the funding directly to the school district. The problem is the length and the terms of the lease. Barbara added that the only way to get them the funding directly is for the City to step in and make it a public improvement. She stated that the school district is looking into that lease now. She also that the City is really constrained dealing with school district properties and leases with regard to Agency funds.

There was discussion about looking at other sites. Vice Mayor Dando cited the example of San Diego making good use of property under interchanges. Chair Yeager suggested the use of a community center, but Sharon answered that there is a problem with spending for improvements then moving again to another facility.

Vice Mayor Dando mentioned that we should not be looking to put hundreds of dollars into a project that has only a five-year lease.

Angel mentioned that Packard Foundation is funding the other phases of the Estrella project. Barbara added that Packard has not actually signed their loan document and their proposal is repayment of their loan in five years. What they apparently did was to require the school district to go back to their board and re-negotiate the lease and that if they could not extend the lease beyond the five years, and not renew for the second five years, they would pay relocation benefits.

Vice Mayor Dando expressed her concern about the request of Estrella for \$600,000 with such a short term of lease.

Chair Yeager requested that staff update the Committee on the negotiation stages as they move along. He asked what the issue is with the terms of the lease. Barbara replied that State restrictions limit terms to five years if the project is a child care facility. She stated that what the City is proposing is for the facility to be also used for recreation programs, which would then move it to a different category of State law and allow them to enter a longer term of lease.

Jim Schutz stated that the Child Care Development Fund currently has \$1.5 Million available from the proceeds of a \$60 Million bond issued in August 2003. This amount can be used for capital improvement funding to expand child care services and to enhance the quality of child care programs by implementing the City's Smart Start program.

An additional \$3.5 Million was budgeted for 2004-04 from proceeds of a \$120 Million bond issued in December 2003. This additional money will require approval from the Agency as part of their 2005-09 CIP.

There was additional discussion on the industry standards of cost per square foot of child care. Vice Mayor Dando asked that staff compare this with the IBM or PG&E child care facility in San Francisco and get a first based cost so we know where we are.

Councilmember Gregory also asked about the results of the survey of City employees – that if only 18% responded, why is this a priority? Angel responded that there was direction from the previous Council Committee to expand child care in downtown and neighborhoods around downtown. He added that at that time, there was special emphasis placed on making child care available to employees.

Angel also stated that due to the downturn of the economy, cost has now become a factor so that staff have looked beyond the downtown area for possible sites.

Deputy City Manager Jim Holgersson added that several years ago, staff actually inventoried facilities that could be identified and encouraged those providers that might be interested in programming with the City.

Vice Mayor Dando mentioned that the survey was conducted three times in the last 10 years, and each time, City employees said they wanted child care, especially infant care, in the building itself.

Angel stated that child care providers listed on the matrix have all agreed to provide infant care spaces for City employees.

Chair Yeager asked what the demand would be once the new City Hall opens, and if we are going to be able to meet the demand. Angel answered that in anticipation of the opening of the new City Hall, they are already working with partners in trying to identify the future demand of City employees.

Chair Yeager stated that this item will be included again in the workplan for the second half of the year.

Upon the motion of Vice Mayor Dando, seconded by Councilmember Gregory, the Committee accepted the report.

ITEMS B, C, AND D WERE PRESENTED AS ONE REPORT.

Chair Yeager announced that the following reports were to be heard together since the issues covered were all linked.

- b. Update on Schools/City Collaborative Joint Use Agreements – Discussion on how we can better work with schools (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services)
- c. Discussion on Gang Prevention and Intervention Programs (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services/Police Department)
- d. San José After School Implementation Update and Discussion of Priorities for Youth Programs (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services)

PRNS Deputy Director Maria Hurtado introduced Suzanne Wolf, PRNS Community Services Supervisor overseeing the After School Program, and Police Department partners, Lt. Santiago Trejo and Lt. Carlos Miranda. She explained that staff was going to give a combined presentation to introduce the strategies PRNS is undertaking to identify core services for the next fiscal year, and to facilitate a discussion on priority youth programs.

Maria talked about the customers staff have been talking to over several months as they formulate the core services for PRNS. Staff was able to find out the highest youth priorities to these groups of customers, and based on this, staff developed strategies for the coming year and evaluated how these priorities could tie into the Blueprint. The Core Services Survey, which was first presented to the Committee in June, was sent to 209 schools and 19 schools districts. Staff received 93 responses from principals, 11 from Superintendents, and 2,336 from parents. Staff also conducted different focus groups made up of parents, youth and service providers. The Youth Commission also met jointly with the Parks and Recreation Commission to discuss departmental priorities relating to programming and operations and park development. In January, the Youth Commission also had a working session where they discussed the value, relevance and effectiveness of the youth programs. Also in January, staff conducted another focus group with the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force to assess its effectiveness and to examine its structure and program focus. There was also some discussion of a meeting to talk about conducting an Education Summit with the Schools/City Collaborative.

Maria also mentioned that the Mayor and Councilmembers Chirco and Gregory met with school superintendents to discuss program priorities and the structure of the Schools/City Collaborative.

As a result, superintendents, principals, parents and students selected afterschool programs and safe schools and neighborhoods as their top priorities. Also included are literacy and

learning, and positive role models to help at homework centers. Another one was focusing on providing school readiness and early care for children below 5 years old to ensure successful entry into the educational system.

The Youth Commission's top priority were the provision of afterschool programs, such as sports, arts and crafts, and field trips, and also the provision of youth intervention services and recreation.

The joint commissions focused on keeping children and youth off the streets by providing affordable programs and services for them.

The Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force spoke of refocusing to the original purpose of the task force which was to stop violence and to restructure their policy and technical teams to bring back the right people into the group.

Maria presented the top five youth priorities which were: Afterschool programs, safe schools and neighborhoods, literacy, youth development and intervention programs, and early care and education finished the top five.

Maria also explained that after school programs was consistently ranked first by parents, principals, superintendents.

Councilmember Gregory asked why early care and education was ranked low by parents. Suzanne Wolf responded that staff mostly interviewed parents of school age children ages K-12 who are no longer focused on early childhood care. Jim added that it is interesting that principals and teachers thought early care and education was very important. Suzanne added that high school principals also ranked it very high because they now have students who have infants.

Vice Mayor Dando commented that in the case of literacy and learning, she was surprised that it was ranked low among the parents of school-age children. Suzanne stated that literacy and learning has more of a library connection, and that these have been put in context closer to afterschool programs because of the hands-on learning in the school system.

Vice Mayor Dando then said that she thought literacy and learning might be a reflection on homework centers, and afterschool programs might relate more to the principle of keeping children off the street. Suzanne stated that literacy and learning are mostly library responsibilities and promoting family literacy and formal reading programs.

Councilmember Gregory then asked if it would be safe to assume that literacy and learning are core stuff in the classroom and that they might not see them as part of our core mission but rather as the principals/schools' priority.

Vice Mayor Dando stated that she thought she was relating too much to budget, and she added that if we cannot cover all the priorities, we should only do afterschool and safe schools.

Suzanne explained the program strategies for 2004-05. She explained the three levels of after school programs. Level One is the foundation for levels 2 and 3. This is the safe place that provides homework assistance or homework and life skills or recreation.

Level Two includes integrated services such as recreation and activities and also level 1 components.

Level Three is the comprehensive program that comprises nutrition and life skills, arts and enrichment, having a dedicated site coordinator and strong connections to teachers, parents and the community. This also includes Levels One and Two components. The State of California looks to this as a model program.

Currently, most of our Level Three funding come from State and Federal grants and in the future and next year, staff is hoping for a much more cost recovery model.

Suzanne explained that Level One funding sources come from HNMF; some General Fund helps with HNMF in the Level Two funding, and for Level Three, funding sources are from other grant sources or matching grant funds.

Councilmember Gregory asked who writes the grants for Level Three and Suzanne answered it does not matter. He stated it looks like a cooperative effort between the site and the City to get the funding outside of the General Fund and HNMF.

Suzanne replied that we are collaborating partners with community-based organizations that operate quite a few of our Level Three sites. CBO's also bring matching grants to the Level Three programs to leverage the dollars.

Councilmember Gregory asked where the General Fund of \$2.29M is allocated to. Suzanne said it is allocated to 76 program sites – sometimes it goes to community organizations, or with PRNS staff or in conjunction with school districts.

Chair Yeager asked if we have reached the time of not adding new programs. He stated that it concerns him to have more of this type of programs that would cost more dollars when we should be looking at making cuts everywhere else. Suzanne replied there would not be more programs; but rather more options in the existing programs.

Chair Yeager asked where the schools' participation is in the whole scenario? He stated that the City cannot do it all, and if the schools are being partners with us, where are their resources? Suzanne that we do have matching funds that come from schools as it relates to facility use, utilities, teachers.

Chair Yeager asked if the time comes that the City or HNVF cannot fund anymore, would schools be willing to put in some dollars? Maria replied that one of the focal points of the Schools/City Collaborative is how do we look at each other's investments. She added that as it related to the Joint Use Agreement, when we negotiate, we should look at the city's investment as a whole and also the schools' resources. Vice Mayor Dando commented that Council District 10 has closed its community and senior centers, and they have approached the school districts to use their facilities, but the school districts have closed their schools after hours because of tight budget. She added there is no partnership at all.

Councilmember Gregory also commented that if schools actually believe in the priorities that they have set, they should be willing to step up to the plate, and the City should hold them to that. He added that this should be a partnership and not a free ride for the City to fund what the school districts see as important but not enough to put their own dollars into. He stated that there should be a tough conversation with the districts about the programs that they see as important that we can partner with them in value.

Suzanne talked about impacts on Level One. She said the goal was to move from 236 to 250 sites under the new model recommendations. We would have a cut of \$1.6M, which equates to a loss of 160 sites and 7,000 students daily. Impact would be strong on CBO's and schools.

The impact on Council Districts would be an average loss of 15 sites per council district and not being able to meet state and federal match.

Vice Mayor Dando asked how much we have to put in to get Federal funding. Suzanne said we put on average \$75K for a Level Three grant, and we match it with approximately \$15K to \$30K from the General Fund, and approximately \$10 with Level One funds.

Councilmember Gregory asked if the amount of HNVF funding changes. Vice Mayor Dando stated that applications received for HNVF funding add up to over \$20 M but there is less than \$5M in HNVF money.

Maria mentioned that in tying in to the Blueprint Youth Master Plan, PRNS has spoken to various groups in the community to understand their foremost priorities so that the PRNS can formulate strategies to continue to reduce, enhance and modify services to the community. Maria stated that the customers' priorities and the strategies the department is developing continue to support the goals of the Blueprint. These are: safe schools and safe neighborhoods, early childhood development, and education and learning opportunities. The Office of Economic Development will handle the workforce development goal area, with the move of Workforce Investment into OED.

The strategies that PRNS has developed are:

- 1) Refocus on afterschool programs by expanding options for Level One.
- 2) Merge literacy with early care and education and work with the Library on this effort.
- 3) Establish a “hub” multi-service delivery system throughout the City to maximize resources in each district and focus service delivery on regional needs.
- 4) Improve collaboration and communication with community-based partners to fill service gaps.
- 5) Re-examine the structure of the Mayor’s Gang Prevention Taskforce to refocus its’ core purpose, which is to stop violence and to increase the effectiveness of intervention programs. Communicate with the School Superintendents to establish stronger joint use agreements.
- 6) Ensure tie-in with the Blueprint as we examine strategies.

Lt. Trejo stated that the Police Department gets a lot of benefits from partnering with PRNS in diffusing conflicts. He stated that aside from Police presence, they need the intervention component – the Right Connection and others – to help diffuse problems. He added that the Police Department provides suppression and PRNS provides intervention.

Lt. Miranda mentioned the benefits of the STAND and Clean Slate Programs. He spoke about programs under the Police Department’s Community Services Section, which are Challenges and Choices, and the School Liaison Program.

Maria stated that the continuum that is so effective is the prevention, intervention and suppression continuum, and in PRNS, the prevention component is really the key, and that is why they are putting a lot of emphasis on the afterschool programs, on safe school campus. The MGPTF is focusing on the intervention piece. The Police Department does the suppression piece.

Councilmember Gregory commented that he appreciates the work that Police Department is doing. He stated that as tough as our budget is, we have to be smart to know how we are going to maintain the support at the front end so that our schools continue to be safe and we don’t wind up being a city where we are reacting to every thing bad that happens at the end of the day.

Maria emphasized the importance of our partnership with the community and community based organizations and building the multi-service delivery “hub” concept. She cited the example the violent incidents in the Alma-Gardner-Washington area. She stated that partners

from the Catholic Charities and staff from our community center mobilized a community response.

Maria added that the department is in the process of establishing safety protocols as we already have in schools. They will implement the same protocols around community centers, hubs and working with an organized staff and community partners.

Vice Mayor Dando stated that there is not an area in the City that has had as much money as the Washington-Alma-Gardner area in terms of a new library, gymnasium and other services, and yet, most of the violence still occurs in that area.

Lt. Miranda replied that issues like being a Latino population and immigration certainly play a big role. He stated that education should be more emphasized. He also stated the problem of transiency.

Vice Mayor Dando stated that maybe focus should be on teaching third graders to read, write and speak so they will have a chance to make it.

Chair Yeager mentioned that the reason staff put together the three reports was to help the Committee focus on the priorities for youth. Deputy City Manager Holgersson added that the three subjects discussed are what we are framing the budget around.

Deputy City Manager Holgersson stated that because of the budget cuts, in order to continue the programs at the levels that we believe are necessary to keep these priorities in line, we are moving away from specialization and moving more in sharing the goals and the mission.

Sara added that the only way for us to survive these tough times is for us to train ourselves better, taking the experts and training the rest of the staff, working with communities like SNI and NACs and actually going in the community to do training so we all recognize these things. She stated we are all responsible and need to be versed in all areas – gang violence, graffiti and other things.

Chair Yeager said that in summary, we should ensure that joint use agreements are really joint use agreements. Safe Schools and safe neighborhoods are high priorities and that we should be focusing on. The afterschool programs – we need the “ner” in the partner, and the City just can not continue to fund these programs at the level that we have been so far, and if they are important, school districts need to have to fund some of them.

Maria announced that the next meeting with Superintendents was April 15, and that at that meeting, they would set a date for the Education Summit.

Upon the motion of Vice Mayor Dando, seconded by Councilmember Gregory, the Committee accepted the report.

e. Oral Petitions

None.

f. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Ken Yeager, Chair
All Children Achieve Committee